

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated February 8, 2007.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the Title, the Title has been changed to read "ELECTRONIC IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS HAVING PARALLEL CIRCUIT BOARD ARRANGEMENT" as recommended by the Examiner during a telephonic conversation on March 5, 2007. Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reason, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to the Title be withdrawn.

As a result of the current amendment, Claims 1-8 are currently pending.

Claims 1-2 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,248. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

Claims 1, 3-4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsukawa (5,867,744), in view of Tani (5,891,994). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration for at least the following reasons.

Amended Claim 1 includes the recitation of "a plurality of power supply batteries" "situated on a first side of the apparatus body;" "a strobe flashing unit arranged on an upper surface of the apparatus body; and a capacitor for strobe flashing situated on the second side of the apparatus body which is opposite the first side of the apparatus body and arranged in a space under the strobe flashing unit and between the lens barrel and an internal side wall of the apparatus body, wherein an axial direction of the capacitor is substantially parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and substantially perpendicular to a bottom part of the apparatus body."

Matsukawa is directed to a camera having a storage area of a power source including first and second stages and discloses an electric circuit (63) is contained in a space (61), while another electric circuit (64) is contained in a space (62) (e.g., see, col. 6, lines 59-61, and FIG. 12). However, Matsukawa does not teach, disclose, or suggest the first and second electrical boards having respective component sides oriented substantially parallel to the principal body plane of the apparatus, the first and second electrical boards being spaced apart at a predetermined interval to create a space, as recited by claim 1.

Moreover, with reference to FIG. 5, Matsukawa teaches cells (13a) to (13d) are contained in the lower portion of the camera (1) (e.g., see, col. 4, lines 7-8). However, as recited by the claims

of the present application, a plurality of power supply batteries are arranged in the space between the electrical boards so that an axial direction of the plurality of power supply batteries is parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and the batteries extend in a row without overlapping one another and are situated on a first side of the apparatus body. Further, as recited by the claims of the present application, the first side is located opposite the second side of the apparatus body, which contains a capacitor located under a strobe flashing unit.

Further, Matsukawa, does not teach, disclose, or suggest, the strobe flashing unit arranged on an upper surface of the apparatus body and a capacitor for strobe flashing situated on the second side of the apparatus body, as recited by the claims of the present application.

Moreover, Tani is directed to an image pickup and data processing apparatus, having a plurality of detachable substrates. With reference to FIG. 1 and the corresponding text (e.g., see, col. 2, lines 23-34), Tani teaches a first substrate (21) and a second substrate (31) are provided at a predetermined interval in the camera. However, Tani does not teach, disclose, or suggest, a plurality of power supply batteries arranged in the space between the electrical boards so that an axial direction of the plurality of power supply batteries is parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and the batteries extend in a row without overlapping one another and are situated on a first side of the apparatus body; a relay board arranged in the space and connecting the electrical boards; a strobe flashing unit arranged on an upper surface of the apparatus body; and a capacitor for strobe flashing situated on the second side of the apparatus body which is opposite the first side of the apparatus body and arranged in a space under the strobe flashing unit and between the lens barrel and an internal side wall of the apparatus body, wherein an axial direction of the capacitor substantially parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and is substantially perpendicular to a bottom part of the apparatus body, as recited by claim 1.

With reference to Toyofuku (JP Publication No. 10-056588), an electronic image pickup device is disclosed. Toyofuku teaches, in col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 4, an arrangement of a power supply. However, Toyofuku does not teach, disclose, or suggest a plurality of power supply batteries arranged in the space between the electrical boards so that an axial direction of the plurality of power supply batteries is parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and the batteries extend in a row without overlapping one another and are situated on a first side of the apparatus body, as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

Moreover, with reference to col. 6, lines 6-12 and Fig. 4, Toyofuku teaches an arrangement of a capacitor for strobe flashing. However, Toyofuku does not teach, disclose, or suggest a capacitor for strobe flashing situated on the second side of the apparatus body which is opposite the first side of the apparatus body and arranged in a space under the strobe flashing unit and between the lens barrel and an internal side wall of the apparatus body, wherein an axial direction of the capacitor substantially parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and is substantially perpendicular to a bottom part of the apparatus body, as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

Further, Kitsugi (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0185002) is directed to an information processing apparatus. Kitsugi teaches, in paragraph 48, an arrangement of a power supply (21) and a capacitor (22). However, Toyoguku does not teach, disclose, or suggest, first and second electrical boards having respective component sides oriented substantially parallel to the principal body plane of the apparatus, the first and second electrical boards being spaced apart at a predetermined interval to create a space; a plurality of power supply batteries arranged in the space between the electrical boards so that an axial direction of the plurality of power supply batteries is parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and the batteries extend in a row without overlapping one another and are situated on a first side of the apparatus body; a strobe flashing unit arranged on an upper surface of the apparatus body; and a capacitor for strobe flashing situated on the second side of the apparatus body which is opposite the first side of the apparatus body and arranged in a space under the strobe flashing unit and between the lens barrel and an internal side wall of the apparatus body, wherein an axial direction of the capacitor is substantially parallel to the component sides of the electrical boards and substantially perpendicular to a bottom part of the apparatus body, as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, as the above-stated references, either alone or in combination thereof, do not teach, disclose, or suggest, each and every limitation of claim 1, claim 1 cannot be rendered obvious by these references. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 includes limitations which are similar to those contained in claim 1 and are neither taught, disclosed or suggested by the cited art of record. Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

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SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
EFS FILING SYSTEM
ON APRIL 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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